

February 22, 1012

Good Evening Chairs and Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Deborah Gage and I live in Hartford, CT. I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5014, the bill that is proposing changes to Husky D (Medicaid).

I am legally blind; I attended Oak Hill School for the blind. I also have a co-occurring mental health condition which requires ongoing medical care. My copays have already gone up over the past year and I cannot afford to go to the doctor as it is. I have no idea who my worker is at the state and can never get an answer when I call. If these changes are integrated, I will have an even more difficult time in maintaining my mental and physical health. I cannot afford additional copays and caps.

I struggle each day to just to live my life. I come to the Chrysalis Center each day to go to a culinary training program and for socialization. I would also like to support that the nonprofits get their COLA so that the staff we work with will keep their jobs and we can retain staff.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify here today and I hope that my words will encourage you maintain Husky D in a way that benefits the less fortunate in Connecticut.

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